GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1005
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2016
Environmental Clearance for TPP
Karandlaje Km. Shobha

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal for Environmental Clearance from Udupi Power Corporation Limited (UPCL) regarding the expansion of its Thermal Power Plant (TPP) in Udupi and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether about 34 cases of environmental degradation are pending in the Supreme Court/National Green Tribunal (NGT) against the said TPP;
(c) if so, the details thereof; and
(d) whether the Government plans to consider conversion of the said plant into a gas-based plant with a desalination unit, as demanded by the locals and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) The Government has received an online application for framing the Terms of Reference (ToR) for preparation of report on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in respect of the project "Expansion by addition of 2x800 MW (Phase-II) coal based TPP at Padubidri Industrial Area in Villages Yellure and Santhru, Tehsil & District Udupi, Karnataka by M/s. Udupi Power Corporation Ltd.". As per the procedure laid down in the EIA Notification, 2006 and amendments therein, ToR was prescribed for the said expansion proposal vide letter dated 13.08.2015. This Ministry is yet to receive the final EIA report in order to appraise for environmental clearance.

(b)&(c) Prior to the accordance of ToR, it was brought to the Notice of the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) of this Ministry that there are numerous ongoing litigations against the existing project. The EAC has accordingly, recommended the said ToR subject to the outcome of pending litigations. Further, an additional ToR i.e. "An updated status of all Court Cases on the existing project and the proposed expansion. The detailed response of the PP on the environmental issues raised in the litigations" was also prescribed.

(d) The proposal submitted by the project proponent for which the said ToR was accorded, is based on coal as the fuel. There is no further development in the matter.

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